

Sub C1 controller is capable of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system and writing the generated data to the plurality of first storage locations in response to a single command.

3. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the controller is capable of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state and writing the generated data having the predetermined state to each of the plurality of first storage locations in response to the single command.

Revised 4. (Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be non-contiguous storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to any of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

5. (Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be storage locations on different storage devices of the at least one storage device, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

6. (Twice Amended) The storage system of claim 2, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are on different storage devices, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to a single command.

Sub B2C27 8. (Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first storage location corresponds to a logical object defined by the computer system, the logical object being formed by a first group of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device that includes the first storage location, and wherein the controller is capable of writing the generated data to only the first group in

response to the single command.

9. (Amended) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the controller is capable of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state and writing the generated data having the predetermined state to the first group in response to the single command.

10. (Amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the controller includes means for generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system.

12. (Amended) A method of operating a storage system in a computer system including the storage system and a host computer coupled thereto, wherein the storage system includes a cache memory and at least one storage device having a plurality of user-accessible storage locations, the method comprising, in response to a communication received from the host computer, acts of:

(A) generating, within the storage system, data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system to be written to a first storage location of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device; and

(B) writing the generated data to the first storage location.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first storage location includes a plurality of first storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to the plurality of first storage locations in response to a single command received from the host computer.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the act (A) includes an act of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state to be written to each of the plurality of first storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

Sub C3
15. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be non-contiguous storage locations on the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to any of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

32
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16. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are perceived by the host computer to be storage locations on different storage devices of the at least one storage device, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one storage device includes a plurality of storage devices, wherein at least two storage locations of the plurality of first storage locations are on different storage devices, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to each of the at least two storage locations in response to the single command received from the host computer.

Sub C4
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19. (Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first storage location corresponds to a logical object defined by the computer system, the logical object being formed by a first group of the plurality of storage locations on the at least one storage device that includes the first storage location, and wherein the act (B) includes an act of writing the generated data to only the first group in response to a single command received from the host computer.

Sub C5
151
20. (Amended) The method of claim 19, wherein the act (A) includes an act of generating the data that is independent of any data passed from the host computer to the storage system having a predetermined state to be written to the first group in response to the single command.